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Spraces every Sunday morning at it o'clock, and exeming at y o'clock. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. W. W. Dawsey, pastor MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH.

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Preaching every first and third Sunday, morning and vectoring by Rev. Wyndes. Prayer-meeting Weshesday evening. Sanday-school every Sunday norning at 9.19. M. M. CHURCH, SOUTH.

freaching every first and third Lord's day, tourning and evening, by T. C. Peters. Prayer meeting Thursday evening. Sunday school every Sanday storning at 200 o'clock. THE PUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

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#### THE CRISIS.

BY HARRIET IS ORCUTT.

Robert Strong, reported millionaire, papar, "I fear you do not realize the value stood in the bay window of one of Chicago's mansions one brilliant sunshiny December morning There had been the breezes had played with it and disthe breezes had played with it and distributed it most anequally. The mil- gether. Honaire was watching his enterprising young neighbor over the way, who inhabited the poorest house on the street, and who was out shoveling snow from his sidewalk. Mr. Strong was in a meditative mood. Although surrounded by every evidence of wealth and luxury he did not look nor act like a man who was perfectly satisfied with life. He had been pacing

up and down the room more like some eaged animal than like a prosperous nember of the board of trade "It is time that Hobbes was here!" he was saying as he walked up and down, making an occasional pause at the window. "Why does he not come? I am anxious to know my fate. Wealth or poverty-which is it to be for the future? That fellow over there shoveling snow for exercise works on salary, and has no business cares. I wonder who is happier, he or 1? How we are hampered by our environment! I would really like to take a shovel and dispose of those drifts still reposing undisturbed on our front steps. The exercise would do me good, but what shocking thing it would be! The servants, the family, the whole community would be shooked, inexpress far compromise his dignity as to bill and see what the effect would be!
He is fond of money. A hundred dellars so easily earned would be a temptation. I am curious to know what he rights of others! He had sold the best would do! The experiment would probably result in his giving notice, and Mary would be sorry to lose him. I wonder when I saw her last? She seldom takes breakfast with me. Last night I came home late; she had gone

for the evening- and came home later still! Yesterday-did I see her yesterday? Yes, we passed each other in the ball and said good morning and goodby! We had an hour together Sunday. Blessed be Sunday! Mary and I are on the best of terms—we have not quarreled for ten years! I think we love each other. But we are both so busy. She has the care of this great house, and came back with a revolver. house, and company, and society! I gets lost somewhere. I wonder if we are any happier than we were in the old simple days when we lived for each other, instead of for servants and society! Was that the doorbell? I shall her side? He sat down to his writing not breathe freely again until I know desk and took out some paper. whether that sale goes through. If the deal goes against us-my God! It can't go against un! If it does I shall be ruined! If Hobbes would only come! A man needs nerves of steel in

these days to bear the stram of business. If the deal goes he will come himself, that we may plan together. If it falls-he will write. A messenger will bring the news. That young man over there works as if he enjoyed ter? What are you about to do?" cried it. How he makes the snow fly! Here his wife in distress. "John told me comes his wife. Happy creatures! that he brought you a letter, and then They have no dignity to be compromised. He can shovel snow and she can sweep it without shocking the whole community. What a beautiful tell me about it? You have no right morning! The air is like wine, and to try to bear trouble the sunshine turns the snow into ten it, Robert, dear?"

the sunshine turns the snow into ten it, Robert, dear?"

Her arms were around his neck, and thousand glittering diamonds! Surely that was the doorbell! Can it be Hobbes? I must not look too delighted

It was not Hobbes, but his daughter Lucy who entered the room. "Do you like the snow, Lucy?" he asked, as she came and stood by his

lest he should guess how near ruin I

"No, papa! I don't like it at all. I can hardly walk to school, the sidewalks are in such a condition! If it was a little farther I should order the

"That would hardly pay for three blocks. Your mother walked two

miles every day that she was in high "How perfectly dreadful that must have been! Why didn't she take a times that it would be better for the car?"

"O papa! just look! Those people in the cottage are both out working in the snow. He goes shead and shovels and she follows with a broom. Isn't it too bad they are so poor they have to work so hard. I always feet sorry for us, dear, we will be happy whether we

"Do you? How about these who are glad to see the snow that they may earn a few pennics shoveling it?" "They are wrotched, of course! Nobody expects them to be happy!"

Our neighbors, the snow shovelers, look happy," he remarked. "They always do, but I should be perfectly miserable if I were so poor. There are three children and they only keep one girl! She trims her own hats and hardly ever has a new dress, and when she does she has to make it herself.

"They can't be so very poor," continued her father. "The lot that cottage stands on must be worth ten thousand dollars at least.'

"It is. Edith's father wants to buy it to enlarge his yard, and has offered that, but it has always been her home -her father gave it to her, and her mother died there-and they won't sell. She doesn't want the cottage torn down. They are not poor the way folks are that accept old clothes and provisions. She has a plane and books, but they are too poor to have a good time. They can't keep a carriage or go into society or travel in Europe. There was a moment's silence. His

daughter's views were something of a surprise to Mr. Strong. "When are you going to get mamma those diamonds you promised her?" asked Lucy, turning away from the

"I don't know. Is she suffering for them? I am short of money just now." "They are only twenty thousand dol-

by equal division of all the property "I don't understand you, papa."

"Very likely not! But if all the property in the United States should e equally divided among all the people in it there would be about one thousand dollars apiece. The average family contains five members, so you see when your mother wears those wen ty-thousand dollar diamonds, she will be wearing the capital of twenty ple, or of four families."

"What do you mean by that, papa? Do you mean that if mamion has twenty sand dollars' worth of diamonds, twenty other people will have to go without anything at all?"
"That is about the nize of if, my

dear. If there are twenty people and twenty peaches to be divided among med of ane man takes finif of the rt during his notion p

"I should not like that if I was one of the other people—but I do want mam-ma to have her disponds! Mrs. Yan Smith has beautiful diamonds and they are not half so rich as you are,

"Perhaps not! I hope I never will

A moment later the butler appeared baring a letter on a sliver tray

"He brings my death warrant!" was the thought that passed through Mr. Strong's mind. "Houses did not come -he has written. The deal has failed. It is my death warrant." He waited until the butler had left the room and then opened the lette with trembling fingers. It was as he feared. The deal hall failed! He sank into a chair and covered his face with his hands, caring nothing about partie ulars. It was enough to know that he was lost. All the world must know his financial distress to morrow. Ruined! Ruined! Could be face the world and

begin again? Could be face his own family? The words of his daughter: "I should hate to be poor!" rang in his ears. In his mental "distress, those carelessty-spoken words, uttered with-out thought, weighed more than they should. It seemed to him that they expressed the sentiments of the whole family. How could be tell them that his wealth had vanished even quicker than it had come. He started up and paced the floor, his "thoughts acting like whips to scourge him on " ...

In this, his hour of despair, his schole by shocked! A hundred dollar bill life passed in review before him. He would hardly induce one butter to so thought of the high hopes of his far compromise his dignity as to youth, when he had wished to be minimum. shovel snow. And if I should do in A bered among those who fought for have half a mind to try him with a justice and truth and the rights of the part of himself for wealth, and noweven that, the price of his infamy, was gonel His life had been a fallure from first to last a miserable failure!
Measured by the highest standard it had always been a failure—even though his check had been good for a million! Measured by the lower standard of worldly success, to-morrov men would write upon his brow-fail ure! It was unendurable! Why should be continue to live when life had lost its value? With a sudden re-

And yet-he could not go out of life have business interests, and the club, witout one last word to Mary. Poor and a little politics. So our home life Mary! She might take it hard! He would assure her that it was not

> "Dear Mary," he wrote, and then words failed him. How could be tell her? He stared blankly at the paper. After all, would it not be the act of a coward to leave his family alone fight poverty? Had he a right to do it? Suddenly a soft white hand glided past his, seized the revolver and re-

"Robert! Robert! What is the mat-

she was covering his face with kisses. "It means, Mary, that we are poor! This house will have to be sold; you will have no carriage, no diamonds, no trips to Europe. I shall not save enough out of the general wreck to pay the running expenses of this house for another six months. We are poor Mary; poor, Our wealth has taken wings to itself and flown away. There's nothing left, but the little house your father gave you, and perhaps two or three thousand to start me in business in a humble way."

"But Robert! You have no reason to despair! We have health, strength, the children and each other! The best gifts of life are still ours! Do you know, Robert, I have thought som "It was a country town, and there The possession of great wealth tends to make us forgetful of our common humanity. We will move back into the little house in which we were so happy, and let the social bubble float without us. We will live for ourselves and our children. While you are with are rich or not."

Love conquered.

The crisis was past. Robert Strong decided to live, and to so order his future that self-condemnation should not be his portion.—Banner of Gold.

A Blessing with a Yengennee A man who always borrowed the paper and who brought a chair with him to church in order to avoid paying pew rent invited the editor and the preacher to dine with him. There was nothing on the table but bacon and greens.

Will you ask a blessing, parson?" "I will," exclaimed the preacher, with energy. "Lord, make us thankful for what we are about to receive, and when we have received it give us strength to reach home safely with our appetites!"—Chicago Times-Herald.

Almost a Hipt. A little boy was told that he must never ask for anything at the table, as it was not good manners to do so. The consequence was that he was frequently overlooked. One day his father said: "Johnny, get me a clean plate for my lettuce."

"Take mine, pa; it's clean," and he added, with a sigh: "There hasn't been anything put on it yet."—Texas Siftings.

Playing on the Ruins. "These firemen must be a frivolous set," said Mr. Spillkins, who was reading a paper.

"I read in the paper that after a fire was under control, the firemen played all night on the ruins. Why didn't "Which is exactly four times the they go home and go to bed like sensi-amount of money which could be allot-ble men, instead of remping about like ted to each family in the United States children?"—Texas Siftings.

When One's Wife Is Away. Mrs. Boreas - When you returned from the country I suppose you found the place all upset. It's always that way when a man is left to keep house. Mrs. Cobwigger - Yes, my dear; the litter was terrible. The only place that was cleaned up was the wine-cellar, -Judge. cellar,-Judge.

One Thing Lacking. "I wish we were rich, John, and could do something for the world," Mrs. B. remarked half devently, half im-

"But, my dear," he replied, "we can do good in a quiet way now."
"Yes, but no one will ever hear of it." -Chicago Times-Herald. The Problem.

She—I wonder what we ought to send them as a wedding present?

He—Ob, something cheap that will

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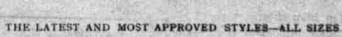
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"Alas, madam, the 'dean has done sething that has about him out of so

"Dear me, you don't say so? What a dreadful thing," said the lady in a breath. "And what was it?" she added, "Well, about a hundred years ago he died."-London Tit-litts.

Intangluis Carro. Port Officer - What have you on board, Captain-Our cargo consists of housand eases of oranges. Port Officer - Yes Cuptain-One thousand cases of eggs.

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"Yes. They both did their best to please her. She has literary tastes, you know, and Herbert sent her a beautifully " 'n volume of poems." "That also have made a good im-"It did - list Will showed her his

Busy Johnny. "Weil. Johany," said a deting uncle to his little nephew, who had been fishing all day. "did you eatch a good

"No, uncle, but I drowned a good many worms."—London Tit-Bits.

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